

6/2/72

We've got some kind of ESP going, Pearlita!

Yesterday, working with materials requiring the deftness and humor on your touch that is rarely mine, I was wishing you could be here to edit it, and today your delayed letter of the 26th, a week in coming. But then yesterday I got no mail, today a flood.

I feel more confident knowing my feelings about your feelings when you wrote the piece were right. It may make it possible for me to be more helpful in the future.

Right now I am so overloaded with so much more than I can think of doing, all things that must be done, I think all I'll be able to do is return the piece with marginal or word markings instead of the paperclips. I'll try to get that done by Sunday's night mail so you can get it promptly. If you have any problems this way, return the page and I'll find time to expand.

Castro/China: If I recall what was in question, it is principle. I do not think that either China or Castro's Cuba would push dope in the U.S. All info from S.E. Asia, for example, is that only we and our friends are pressing it upon our troops. Friends, indeed!

Striso: you merely confirm my original caution. Strange cat, if a cat.

Turner: as one of his victims, let me press fatherly advice on you. Play it too straight. He is a former FBI agent. Call him no more. This way you are honest, detached, can't have accusations made later, etc.

I've done a piece for that eminent journal of arcane letters, the National Enquirer, on the attempt on Wallace, which pays peanuts, but when you are hungry, peanuts are fine protein. I did another piece on dim prospect, from a strange threat against McGovern and Teddy, beginning with a challenge to me. They declined as too complicated for their readers, probably true, and I'm working on what I think I'll call The Double Double-Cross in Doublecrosstown, the newest Cervais switch in which he accuses the government of forcing him to frame Garrison and entrap the real baddies. I'm waiting to hear from the Enq. if they'll take a simple piece, and I'm doing a long one with other things in mind: part of a later book; historical record; slight chance magazine interest. This is only partial answer to your question, "What are you working on?" It is only the more immediate.

6/3 Although I also am in the throes, got up early to get this in today's mail. Other things are on my mind and I didn't time to reread. All I could do is try to recall what I had in mind when I paper-clipped. Perhaps in some cases I have not. In several places, in referring to yourself as a woman, with Teresa selling her "wares", think it could zing a bit more commercially and graphically. Esp. do I think the rescue story is too brief, really inadequate. That was quite a sensational business. I'd give colors, descriptions, places, distances, etc. Details which take but a few words can help that part much. Short, punchy language. Hope you can read the suggestions I've made. The doubts I expressed remain. Be careful not to say some of the things on your own authority. Like China, Castro and drugs. They do things vs countries, not people. And the time is not "the 1950s" as you wrote. The change in policy toward Castro came at the end of the Eisenhower administration. Relations-break three weeks before JFK took over, an unprecedented thing. Sorry I'm so more than usually rushed. Pershing Cervais, who framed Garrison for the feds, has confessed it and I'm into a too-long piece not commissioned. Those incompetents don't even know what is happening or the dramatis personae and I'm actually telling them what is going on down there, from analysis, phone calls and the checking nobody has done. Weird and improbable, but true and time-consuming. Great story if anyone would go for it, and could it use the touch of the Pearl who can roar so!

Best,